

RECOGNIZING MR. DALLAS WICKS
FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE
TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Dallas Wicks who was born on December 11, 1930, in Pelahatchie, Mississippi. He was the third child of twelve children to Minister McAllister and Mrs. Maggie Ella Wicks. His early years of education began at Pelahatchie Elementary School and continued on to Carthage High School, Fayette High School and culminating with him graduating from Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Wicks entered the U.S. Army on April 8, 1951, where he served in the Korean War. He received basic training in Scofield Barracks Hawaii in Honolulu, Hawaii and upon completion, was deployed to Korea and served in the 2nd Army Division in 1951. He has also done other foreign tours of duty that include Germany, France, Lebanon, and Vietnam in addition to a host of state tours including Forts Myles, Hood, and Eustis. During his first tour of duty in Korea, Mr. Wicks received the Purple Heart Medal in October 10, 1951. He has also received the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, U.N. Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation.

Mr. Wicks is a member of the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, where he serves as an auxiliary lay leader. He is also a member of the Prince Hall Jefferson #202 Lodge.

Mr. Wicks is happily married to his wife of 56 years, Mrs. Matiele Wicks. They have no children but several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dallas Wicks for his dedication to serving others.

HONORING SPECIALIST RONALD
WILDRICK, JR.

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a recently fallen warrior, Specialist Ronald Wildrick, Jr. Specialist Wildrick served with the Army's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, out of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

Ron was raised in Byram, New Jersey and graduated from Lenape Valley High School. Specialist Wildrick joined the Army in 2008 with the hope of making a better life for his wife and two daughters, Kaylee and Leah, through service to his nation. In September, he was deployed to Afghanistan's Kunar Province as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. On December 11, 2011, his unit was attacked in the Kunar Province with an improvised explosive device. Sadly, Specialist Wildrick was killed in the line of duty while serving his nation.

As a result of his sacrifice, Specialist Wildrick was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star Medal. His dedication to country and loyalty to his fellow soldiers was evident throughout his Army career. Prior to his deployment to Afghanistan he had the solemn duty of serving with the U.S. Army Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, where he regularly recognized the sacrifices made by his fallen comrades. Ronald Wildrick is a true American hero, and he will never be forgotten by his friends, his family, or the country he fought for. My thoughts and prayers, as well as the thoughts and prayers of a grateful nation, are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE
BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the victims of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 and recognize the twenty-third anniversary of the tragedy.

Pan American Airways Flight 103 departed London Heathrow Airport for John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City on December 21, 1988. The flight would never reach its destination as a bomb exploded on the aircraft killing its 259 passengers and crew, along with 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie Scotland.

Among the passengers killed were 189 Americans, including 37 people from my own district; a couple from the Town of Clay and 35 Syracuse University students returning home from Christmas after a semester abroad in London.

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday season with our loved ones let us remember those who can no longer do so because of this senseless act of terrorism. Twenty-three years have passed, but nothing can replace the loved ones lost in the attack. We must never forget the innocent victims who were killed on Flight 103, nor the families that they left behind. May we use their memory to remind us to stay vigilant in the fight against terrorism and in committing ourselves to creating a safer world.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS
WILLIAMS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Tom Williams, a big man with an even bigger heart who died last week in a tragic car accident.

Tom, 56, was an engineer for the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, based at Point Mugu in my district and China Lake, for 38 years. Most of his career was spent working on simulations of radar systems that could be used by America's enemies.

The War Center's mission is to test weapon systems and Tom often assumed the persona of the "bad guy" to design and implement countermeasures.

He was known as a great troubleshooter. Navy officials told the local newspaper that Tom "could make complex radar systems work in the most hostile environments."

Tom's work had real-life implications and saved countless lives. During Desert Shield, he was sent to the Persian Gulf, where he developed a technique that allowed Navy aviators to jam Iraq's radar. That allowed the aviators to remain safe during their missions when Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

Tom graduated from the Senior Executive Management Development Program at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and was chosen to be a NAVAIR Associate Fellow, recognizing his expertise in the development of threat simulators. Tom eventually became the head of the Airborne Threat Simulation Team, serving at the Integrated Program Team Lead.

A second-generation Californian, Tom began at the Warfare Center as an intern after graduating from Buena High School and retired in 2010, although he returned part-time nine months later to mentor and train new engineers.

When not working at the base, Tom was active in local politics and helping colleagues with home improvement projects. Woodworking was a hobby, and he enjoyed playing golf, pursuing photography, and traveling with his wife, Barbara. Barbara also worked at the Warfare Center, where the two met, and retired in 2009.

In addition to Barbara, Tom is survived by their son, David, and David's fiancée, Kaylan Danielson.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in remembering our personal friend Thomas Williams, in thanking him for his lifetime of work to protect our military men and women, and in offering our sincere condolences to Barbara, David, Kaylan, and to all who knew and loved him. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT PAT-
RICK MILER FOR HIS DEDICA-
TION AND SERVICE TO OUR
COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life of Lieutenant Patrick Miller.

Lieutenant Miller was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1961. As a Marine officer for over 23 years, Lt. Miller served multiple tours as an artilleryman with the 2nd and 3rd Marine Divisions, including two tours in Vietnam.

Lieutenant Miller earned the Medal of Honor on December 18, 1965 in Vietnam. His other decorations include Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Patrick Miller for his service to our country.